

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for securing the head of a toothbrush in a processing machine, in particular tufting machine, the device comprising: having a retaining part with a retaining flange, and having a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange, the retaining flange being intended for engaging configured to engage a toothbrush head in a space between (1) a plate-like bristle carrier, carrier of the toothbrush head, the bristle carrier being produced from a rigid plastic, and (2) a retaining crosspiece of the toothbrush head, the retaining crosspiece likewise being produced from a rigid plastic, and for plastic and being spaced apart from the bristle carrier to form the space, the retaining part supporting the bristle carrier by way of the supporting surface.

2. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the retaining part has a clamping surface which preferably follows the supporting surface, runs transversely to the same and is intended for interacting that interacts with a peripheral lateral surface of the bristle carrier.

3. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that wherein the clamping surface — as seen surface, when viewed in cross section — section, is of a concave design in order to enclose the lateral surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the retaining flange — as seen flange, when viewed in cross section — section, tapers in the a direction of its of a free end of the retaining flange and has a wall thickness of at least 1 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, wherein, on its side a side of the retaining flange which is directed away from the supporting

surface, the retaining flange has a further supporting surface, which is intended for interacting ~~and interacts~~ with the retaining crosspiece.

6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that ~~claim 5, wherein~~ the supporting ~~surface and, if appropriate,~~ surface, the clamping surface and the further supporting ~~surface, surface~~ are formed to mate directly with at least one of the bristle carrier ~~and/or and~~ the retaining crosspiece.

7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized by ~~wherein the retaining part comprises two retaining parts which can be moved move~~ relative to one another between a retaining position and a receiving position.

8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that ~~wherein the retaining flanges of the two retaining parts are of mirror-symmetrical design.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that ~~wherein the retaining flanges of the two retaining parts are spaced apart from one another in the retaining position.~~

10. (New) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the clamping surface follows the supporting surface and runs transversely to the supporting surface.

11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, the retaining part further comprising:
a clamping surface which interacts with a peripheral lateral surface of the bristle carrier, the retaining flange having, on a side which is directed away from the supporting surface, a further supporting surface which interacts with the retaining crosspiece,
wherein the supporting surface, the clamping surface and the further supporting surface are formed to mate with the bristle carrier and the retaining crosspiece, respectively.

12. (New) A method for securing a head of a toothbrush in a processing machine, in particular tufting machine, the method comprising:

employing a retaining part with a retaining flange, and a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange, to engage a toothbrush head in a space between (1) a plate-like bristle carrier of the toothbrush head, the bristle carrier being produced from a rigid plastic, and (2) a retaining crosspiece of the toothbrush head, the retaining crosspiece being produced from a rigid plastic and being spaced apart from the bristle carrier to form the space, the retaining part supporting the bristle carrier by way of the supporting surface.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising
moving two retaining parts from a receiving position to a retaining position to engage the toothbrush head; and
moving the two retaining parts from the retaining position to the receiving position to release the toothbrush head.

14. (New) A toothbrush processed with a processing machine comprising the device according to claim 1.

15. (New) A toothbrush processed with the method according to claim 12.